

continuing in Iraq and on the rise in Afghanistan, their skills are in high demand.

In February of this year, Lee's unit shipped out to Iraq, but in April they were redeployed to Afghanistan as part of the renewed effort to defeat the Taliban.

Last Monday, just weeks after his 26th birthday and 10 days before he was scheduled to return home on leave, Private Lee Meredith was tragically killed in action in Kandahar when a roadside bomb detonated near his vehicle.

Lee was proud to be in the Army and to wear our country's uniform. In the 7 months that he served overseas, Lee earned both the Afghanistan and Iraq Campaign Medals, the Combat Action Badge, the Bronze Star, and the Purple Heart.

As a soldier, a brother, a son, and a friend, he made a lasting impact on those who knew him, and as an American hero, his service and sacrifice will always be remembered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

GOVERNMENT NEEDS TO BE ACCOUNTABLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. FORBES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FORBES. Madam Speaker, when you travel around the country today, one of the things that we see is that a lot of people are divided over different issues. But one thing that they all seem to be in unison about is the need for our government to be accountable, the administration to be accountable to the House and to the Senate and for us to be accountable to the people that we represent.

Oftentimes, we spend hours on this floor debating just how we're going to bring about that accountability, and that's why it's so disappointing at the end of the day to realize it doesn't really matter what we put in the statutes because the administration is determined that they're just not going to comply with it.

This year, Madam Speaker, when we're looking at one of the largest budgets we have, the defense budget, the Secretary of Defense issued a gag order prohibiting hundreds of members of the Pentagon from doing what they do every year, and that is to just communicate with Members of Congress, to tell them where cuts were being made and where moneys were going to various programs. It's one thing if they want to stop them from talking to Members of Congress, but then when they failed to comply with the statutes

that dictate that they send us information so that we can make those independent assessments, Madam Speaker, that's where it becomes even more frustrating.

The statute that's passed by this Congress, signed by the President, says that the Secretary of Defense, when he sends his budget over, has to give the Armed Services Committee a shipbuilding plan. It makes common sense. It makes good sense that we know how many ships we were going to build, how many ships we were going to have so we could compare them with other nations. And then he has to certify that the budget he sends over meets that plan.

He has to do the same thing with an aviation plan, required by law that he submits to us an aviation plan telling us which planes we are going to build, how many planes we're going to have, and a certification that the budget complies with that aviation plan.

□ 1545

This year he just refused to do it. When we asked him about it, he responded with no information at all. So the Armed Services Committee, on a bipartisan basis with every member of the Armed Services Committee agreeing, every Democrat, every Republican, passed a congressional inquiry mandating that the Secretary of Defense comply with the law and send us the shipbuilding plan and the aviation plan by September 15 so we would have those figures before the conference committee came back on the Defense authorization bill. And, Madam Speaker, to date he has refused to submit those plans to the Armed Services Committee.

So, Madam Speaker, the difficulty we have is this: How do you as the Secretary of Defense look at our men and women in uniform across the world who are defending this country and say to them, You need to comply with the law, you need to comply with the regulations that we send out of the Pentagon, but it does not apply to him and he continues to skirt the law?

Madam Speaker, the American people deserve better, and we're going to continue to fight until we get that information to hold the accountability that we think they need.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

URGING SUPPORT FOR H. RES. 782, A RESOLUTION DEMANDING IRAN DISCLOSE FULLY AND ALLOW UNFETTERED INSPECTION OF ITS NUCLEAR PROGRAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHNSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Resolution 782. This is a resolution that I have introduced and which demands that Iran fully disclose its nuclear facilities, its nuclear development facilities, and also allow unfettered international inspection of its nuclear program.

The elimination of nuclear weapons is an issue that is certainly very close to my heart, and I would like to see that nuclear weapons actually are removed from the face of the planet. So it certainly goes in the wrong direction were we as a Nation to tolerate another nation, especially Iran, acquiring the technology to develop nuclear weapons.

What's troubling is last week the whole world learned that Iran has concealed construction of an enrichment facility near the city of Qom. And they did that without knowing that our intelligence community already knew that the facility was over there. It just had not been publicly disclosed, as it was last week. I guess one of the motivations for not disclosing it prior to last week was to just see how deep in the bad faith bucket would Iran pull its water from. They had no intention of revealing it. It was secret. They exercised deception to conceal it. So our country's announcement last week I'm sure was not a happy time for the Iranian leadership.

Having set the model for how they will deal with the international community insofar as nuclear enrichment and from that acquiring or building a nuclear weapon, we have to make sure that we reverse that bad faith into good faith if at all possible. One of the ways of doing that is through continued tightening of sanctions and to isolate the country of Iran for continuing to be deceptive about its nuclear intentions and its nuclear program.

So while my resolution, H. Res. 782, does not impose sanctions, it just merely puts the House of Representatives on record, as we approach the Geneva talks coming up on Thursday, that we want to have disclosure immediately, immediate international inspections, and immediate access by inspectors to its nuclear facilities. That's what this resolution does.

My friend Chairman HOWARD BERMAN of the Foreign Affairs Committee has a number of options that he is considering with respect to sanctions. So in no way would I want this bill to interfere with other measures that will be coming forward out of his committee. But this is necessitated by haste because of the approaching deadline for the Geneva talks to begin.

We have got wide bipartisan support, and I hope my colleagues will join the 39 Members from both sides of the aisle who have already cosponsored it.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BISHOP of Utah addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BROWN of Georgia addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE DESERVE BETTER THAN A HEALTH CARE REFORM BILL DRAFTED IN SECRECY, AND THEY WILL DEMAND IT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. DEAL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I have a message from the citizens of Georgia: don't dare bring a bill before this House that spends one dime of taxpayer money to provide health care for illegal aliens.

During the month of August, the citizens of my State and the country spoke out on health care reform. Their outcry was unlike anything we have seen in recent years. Town hall meetings, TEA parties, freedom rallies, they all became the forum in which the public protest was intended to send a message to this House.

But here we are 2 months later, and none of the concerns of August have been addressed. In particular, no version of the health care reform that is before the House includes the language that I offered that would require proof of citizenship before receiving taxpayer-funded health care. Now it appears that the House is in a holding pattern. Media reports indicate that Speaker PELOSI is drafting her own version of health care reform. Other reports suggest that President Obama and the White House are drafting another bill.

What appears very clear is that these bills are being drafted in secret and behind closed doors and that there is no intention to submit them to the House committees for hearings or for mark-ups.

I call on the Speaker and the President to open up the process, allow Republicans such as me, the ranking member of the Health Care Subcommittee of the Energy and Commerce Committee, to participate in the drafting of this bill. It's time for the law to clearly state that those who want taxpayer-funded health care must prove and must verify that they are citizens. I have language that will make that happen. But thus far it has been rejected along a party-line vote. Today the other body rejected a similar proposal along a party-line vote.

If health care is to be written in secret, if the normal committee processes are bypassed, if illegal aliens are allowed to receive taxpayer-funded health care, if a bill is rushed through this House with no opportunity to read it, if any of these things happen, I predict that the historic outcry of the American people during August will pale in comparison to the voices of concern that they will raise as a result of that abuse.

Madam Speaker, this issue is too big, it is too important to our people, it is too destructive of our free market enterprise system to be cloaked in secrecy and rushed through this body in a partisan wheelbarrow. If that happens, the Members of this House should be outraged. But, more importantly, the American people will be outraged.

Tyranny by whatever name it bears and whatever iron fist it raises is still tyranny. The American people deserve better and they will demand it.

EXTOLLING THE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WESTMORELAND) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Madam Speaker, times of crisis make or break reputations. My home State of Georgia experienced such a crisis in the past 2 weeks, with rainfall and floods believed to set the benchmark for a 500-year period.

Last week President Obama declared parts of Georgia a disaster area, opening up Federal aid, and the House of Representatives paid tribute to both the victims of the flood and the courageous emergency workers who put their own lives on the line to protect lives and property.

Tragically, despite our best efforts, at least 10 Georgians died in those floods. Seven of those deaths were in Douglas County, part of which I represent. The State of Georgia estimates that 20,000 homes suffered extensive damage, thousands were at least temporarily homeless, and damages have reached \$500 million and could rise from there.

The worst destruction occurred in the upper Chattahoochee River basin. Because the rising water flowing down the river could have easily snowballed and ravaged areas south of West Point Dam, we're fortunate that areas of west Georgia didn't experience devastation on the scale seen in north Georgia and metro Atlanta.

While areas southwest of Atlanta did see some inevitable flooding during the heaviest rainfalls on record, counties south of West Point Lake benefited from the excellent management of the lake by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

In recent years the Corps of Engineers has battled both extremes from divvying up sacred water resources during a painful drought in 2007 to

taming raging floodwaters in recent weeks.

The Corps has performed important water management tasks that most Americans take for granted. The Corps takes abuse when it has to issue tough decisions, but its many good works go unnoticed.

I want to correct that oversight today. The Corps management of the basin and specifically West Point Lake during the floods unquestionably saved lives and property. The Corps has acted with foresight and skill, and my constituents in west Georgia benefited from the actions immensely.

When heavy rains began to fall in north Georgia and metro Atlanta, the Corps prepared early for the deluge of water heading downstream and strategically released water from the lake to create more storage capacity. A leading expert on West Point Lake, Joe Maltese of LaGrange, called the Corps' early maneuvering "brilliant."

"Throughout the week of the floods, the Corps used the water storage capacity it had been given to its fullest and held nature's fury back to protect as much and as many as they could downstream below West Point Dam," Maltese said.

□ 1600

The Corps walked a tightrope trying to assure the dam held back all it could against a mighty surge, and they succeeded.

Even though this year's flood set the 500-year benchmark, the Corps managed to keep the dam below record levels set in 2003 while at the same time regulating releases to prevent massive flooding below the dam.

Residents of Troup County, the county where West Point Lake is, have stood united in their praise of the Corps of Engineers. The LaGrange-Troup County Chamber of Commerce West Point Lake Committee gave the Corps a sincere thank you. And the city of West Point, which did suffer some flooding, is grateful that the Corps of Engineers prevented the worst from happening. "The Corps did an excellent job controlling the river," said West Point police chief David Kerr.

To that, I would like to add my gratitude and congratulations to the fine men and women of the Corps of Engineers for their efforts during a trying time for Georgia. When crisis hit, these public servants stood ready and able. When reputations could be made or broken, they made theirs. We will never know how many lives were saved by their actions, and for that we're all grateful. And the people of west Georgia want to commend the Army Corps of Engineers.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GRAYSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GRAYSON. Last night here in this Chamber I gave a speech. I'm not